

transmitting the secure container from the second site to the first site; and

using a rule from the third rule set to govern an aspect of access to or use of the protected content; and

if the comparison results in a second outcome, carrying a second action, which is different in at least one respect from the first action.

146. (NEW) A method for automated negotiation, including the following steps:

creating a first rule set at a first site;

creating a second rule set at a second site;

transmitting the first rule set from the first site to a third site;

transmitting the second rule set to the third site;

at the third site, performing the following steps:

comparing a requirement specified by the first rule set to a requirement specified by the second rule set and determining that the requirements are consistent;

based at least in part on the results of the comparison, creating a third rule set, the third rule set including at least one rule specified at least in part by the first rule set and the second rule set;

associating the third rule set with a secure container;

encapsulating protected content into the secure container; and

transmitting the secure container to the first site.

147. (NEW) A method for automated negotiation including the following steps:  
generating a first rule set including a first rule from a first party which owns or at least in part controls governed content and a second rule from a second party which constitutes or includes a clearinghouse;  
incorporating the governed content into a secure container;  
storing the first rule set at a first site;  
transmitting a second rule set from a second site to the first site, the second rule set including a third rule from a third party;  
comparing at least a portion of the first rule set to at least a portion of the second rule set; and  
based on the results of the comparison, providing access to the secure container to the third party.

148. (NEW) A method of automated negotiation including:  
creating a first rule set representing a negotiating position of a first party;  
incorporating the first rule set into a first secure container;  
creating a second rule set representing a negotiating position of a second party;  
incorporating the second rule set into a second secure container;  
selecting a negotiation site associated with a third party;  
transmitting the first and the second secure containers to the negotiation site;  
at the negotiation site, comparing an attribute of the first rule set to an attribute of the second rule set to determine whether the attributes are compatible and, depending on the results of the comparison, determining that the negotiation has succeeded, determining that the negotiation has failed, or determining that an additional comparison is required;  
if the negotiation has succeeded, transmitting a third secure container to the first party, the third secure container containing governed content;  
if the negotiation has failed, informing both parties of the failure, and not transmitting the third secure container to the first party; and  
if an additional comparison is required, performing that comparison, and repeating until the negotiation either succeeds or fails.

149. (NEW) A method including:

creating a first secure container including a first governed item and having associated a first control;

creating a second secure container including a second governed item and having associated a second control;

transferring the first secure container from a first location to a second location;

transferring the second secure container from a third location to the second location;

at the second location, obtaining access to at least a portion of the first governed item, the access being governed at least in part by the first control;

at the second location, obtaining access to at least a portion of the second governed item, the access being governed at least in part by the second control;

at the second location, creating a third secure container including at least a portion of the first governed item and at least a portion of the second governed item and having associated at least one control, the creation being governed at least in part by the first control and the second control.

150. (NEW) A method of using a resource including the following steps:

receiving the resource at a first computing environment;

receiving a first control or control set at the first secure computing environment;

receiving a second control or control set at the first secure computing environment;

evaluating an auditing-related aspect of the first control or control set and the second control or control set, including evaluating a privacy-related aspect of the first control or control set and the second control or control set;

choosing between the first control or control set and the second control or control set, the choice being based at least in part on the evaluation; and

reporting auditing-related information relating to the access to or use of the resource to a second computing environment.